WORLD RECORD BREAKING COMIC!
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1992-2020
image
306
SPAWN
TODD MCFARLANE
PHILIP TAN
PROPHECY OF DEATH
PART 1
PHILIP TAN 2020
McFARLANE

SPAWN

TODD McFARLANE AND PHILIP TAN
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PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

Spawn and She-Spawn race to save Eddie from the dangers that hunt him in the aftermath of a violent mass shooting. Arriving in a once quiet North Dakota town, the duo find themselves confronted by a pair of vengeful Heavenly soldiers in human disguise. Worse, a secretive cabal inside the Vatican has dispatched Medieval Spawn to capture or kill Eddie. As She-Spawn fights to protect Eddie, Spawn faces off against the armored Medieval Spawn, killing the hulking knight before a strange new threat emerges in a cliffhanger ending that continues, now...

image

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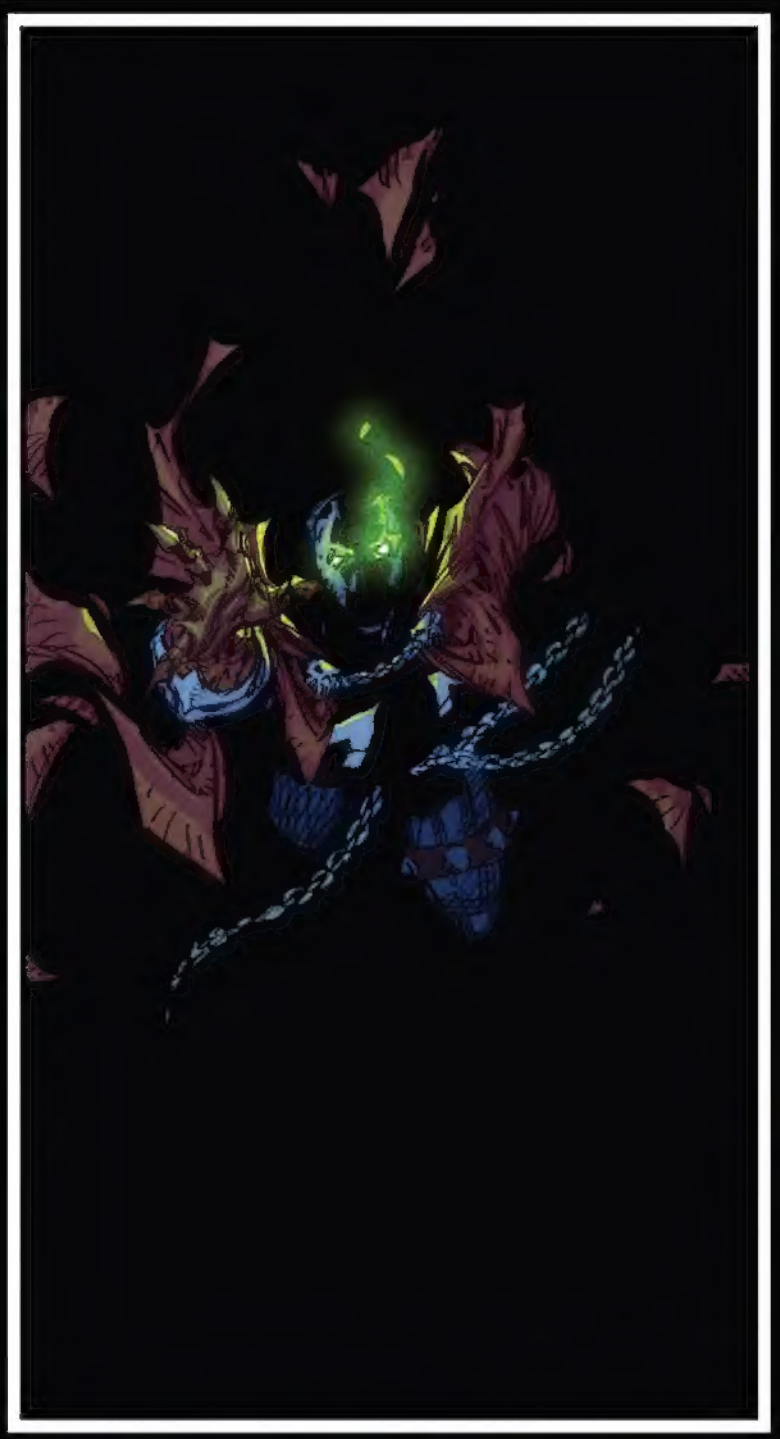
AL THOUGHT HIS BATTLE WAS OVER. THAT THE ENEMY WAS DEFEATED.* BUT IN SPAWN'S ENDLESS WARS, THERE'S ALWAYS A NEW THREAT...
IT HAPPENS QUICK. A STRANGE, GLOWING SUBSTANCE CONSUMES SPAWN IN ITS INFERNAL GRASP.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
AL!
GRAB HIM!
SHE TRIES, BUT IT'S TOO LATE.
SHOCKED, SHE-SPAWN AND REAPER NOW WONDER WHAT THE HELL THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO DO NEXT.

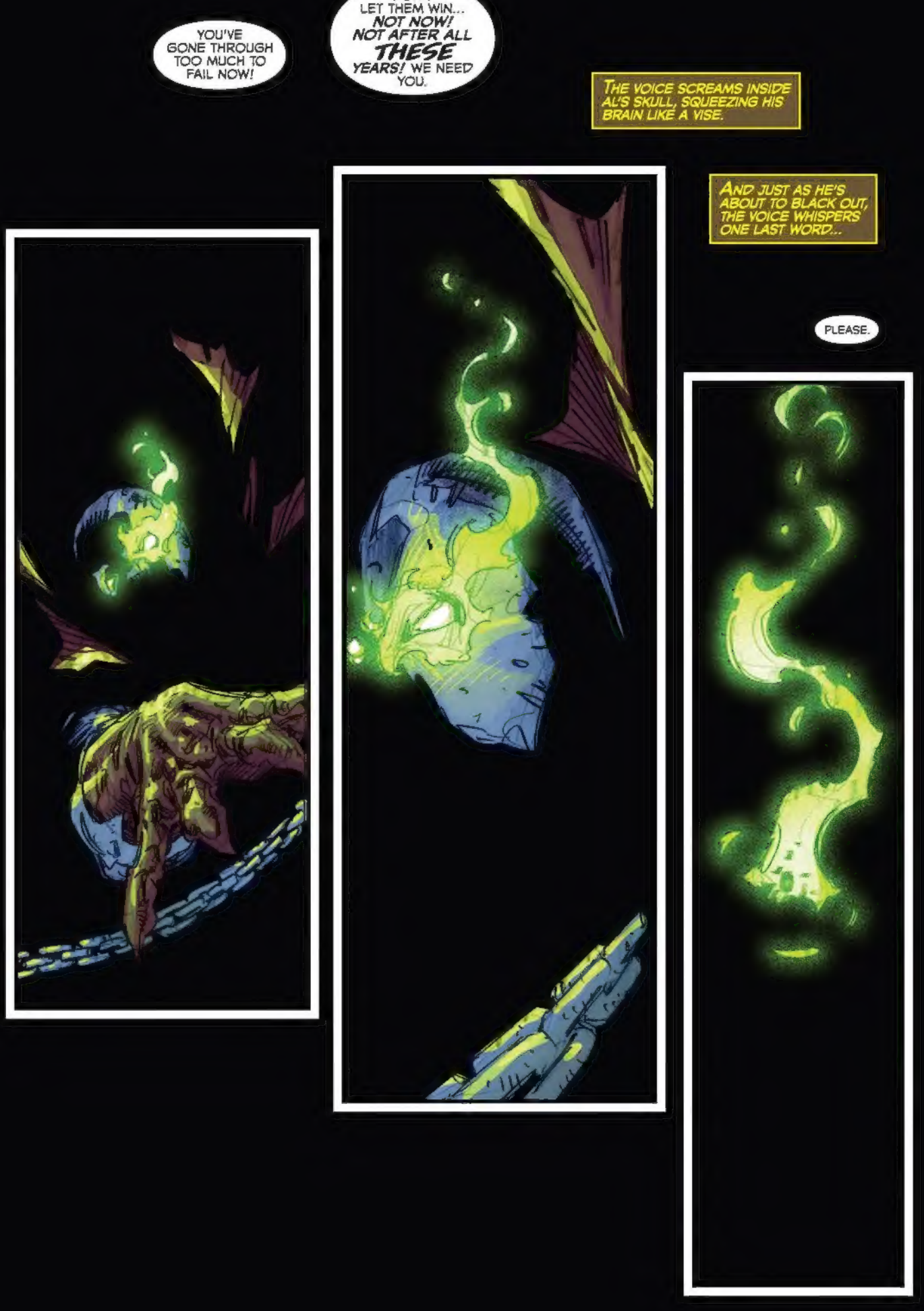


WHATEVER THEY DO, IT WON'T COME CLOSE TO BEING USEFUL BECAUSE FOR AL SIMMONS, THIS NEW NIGHTMARE HE'S ENTERED HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

HE FEELS LIKE HE'S FALLING, BEING SUCKED DOWNWARD INTO A PITCHED DARKNESS, BY SOME HUGE, UNSEEN VACUUM. THEN HE HEARS IT. A HOARSE VOICE SCRATCHING OUT WORDS LIKE EVERY SYLLABLE IS PAINFUL.

FIGHT IT!

RESIST! THE WAY YOU'VE DONE YOUR WHOLE LIFE!


YOU'VE GONE THROUGH TOO MUCH TO FAIL NOW!
DON'T LET THEM WIN... NOT NOW! NOT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS! WE NEED YOU.
THE VOICE SCREAMS INSIDE AL'S SKULL, SQUEEZING HIS BRAIN LIKE A VISE.
AND JUST AS HE'S ABOUT TO BLACK OUT, THE VOICE WHISPERS ONE LAST WORD...
PLEASE.

That same word echoes across a time barrier, through a continuum spectrum from an Earth in the future.

PLEASE..! YOU HAVE TO WAKE UP!

A few minutes earlier this man, who some had dubbed a 'hero' had defeated a small army of attackers. But that small victory only led to the arrival of a massive forty-foot enemy.

And just as the fight was to begin anew, the hero suddenly froze! Leaving himself exposed to the coming onslaught of the hulking giants.

I AM NOT AL..!!

OR AM I?

NO... WAIT...

I'M...

The reason for his hesitation coming from powers wielded by his female counterpart. His partner whom he shares a special bond with. Yet that bond is what is causing his current state of confusion.

And a name keeps playing itself over and over in his brain...

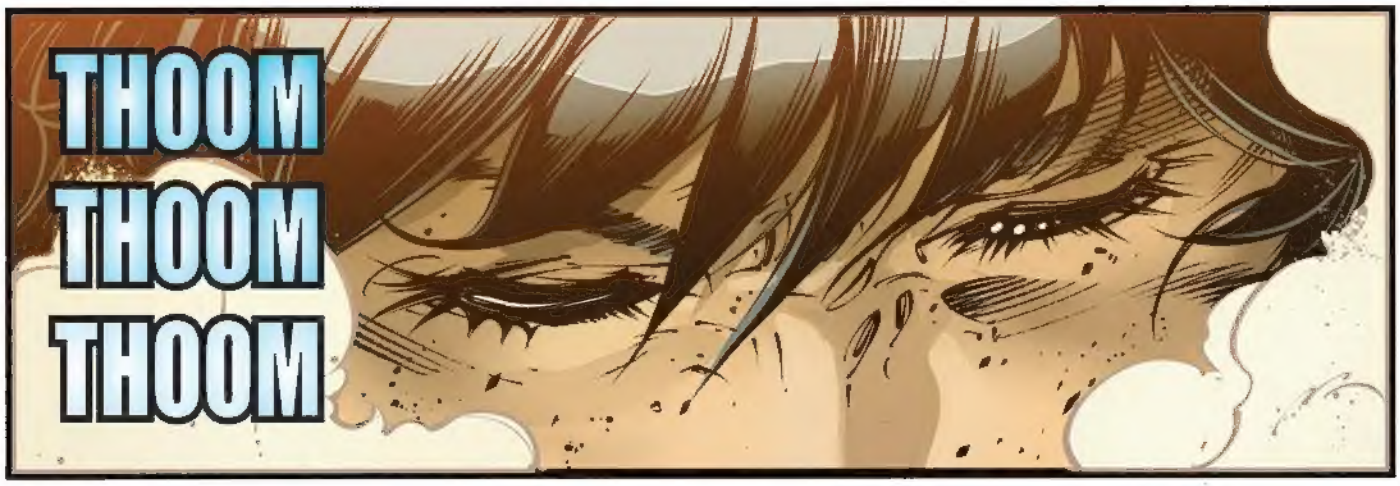
RAPTOR!

ON YOUR LEFT!

CRASH
SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS HELPING. INSTEAD, AT A CRUCIAL MOMENT IN THEIR BATTLE TO OBTAIN "THE HEART OF HEAVENS," SHE'D JUST MADE THINGS FAR MORE DANGEROUS... FOR BOTH OF THEM!
!
WHAT'VE I DONE?
THOUGH SHE'S USED HER POWERS LIKE THIS IN THE PAST, IT'S NEVER HAD AN EFFECT, THIS BADLY, ON HER PARTNER.

KRAK
RAPTOR! GODDAMNIT, MOVE! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
TRY AS HE MIGHT, RAPTOR CAN'T SEEM TO FIND ANY COHERENT BALANCE AS HE GRAPPLES, TRYING TO CONTROL HIS MIND.
THOOM
GIVING THE CREATURE--THE 'LEGION OF A THOUSAND ANGELS'--A CHANCE TO STRIKE!
RUN! GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE KILLS YOU!
I'VE CALLED... FOR HELP.
YOU DIDN'T? YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PRAYERS DO TO ME?
I HAD TO.

WHO?... WHO DID YOU SEND FOR THIS TIME?
IT DOESN'T MATTER, JUST GO! PLEASE!
NO.
NOT WITHOUT YOU.
WE'LL DIE! DON'T YOU GET THAT?! IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME, SO SAVE YOURSELF!
BUT HIS THOUGHTS CONTINUE TO SNAP BACK AND FORTH, FLASHING MEMORIES HE SHOULDN'T HAVE.
HE'S LOSING HIMSELF TO THE MADNESS.
AND BECAUSE THE CHAOS PLAYING OUT IN HIS BRAIN IS PARALYZING HIM, HE'S UNABLE TO REACT.


THOOM
THOOM
THOOM

RAPTOR...?

VICTORIOUS, THE ENEMY BASKS IN FLAMES AND ASHES. HIS LORD HAD SENT HIM DOWN FROM THE HEAVEN WITH THE COMMAND TO SLAY THOSE THAT OPPOSE HIS WILL. RAPTOR HAD LONG BEEN ONE OF GOD'S FIERCEST OPPONENTS AS WELL AS BEING ONE OF THE MOST MYSTERIOUS HUMANS WALKING THE PLANET.
ALL BECAUSE OF HIS LATENT POWERS, WHICH ENABLED HIM TO "BOND" WITH OTHERS.
"CLAUDIAZ, CAN YOU HEAR MY VOICE?"
"MY MEMORIES ARE BEING ATTACKED, BUT IF WE DON'T SURVIVE, THERE WON'T BE ANYONE LEFT TO SAVE ALL OF THOSE WE'VE LOST.
"OR MAYBE WE'VE JUST... BEEN FOOLS. MAYBE THE LEGENDS ARE TRUE, MAYBE WE WILL BE REWARDED. MAYBE EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR US ON THE OTHER SIDE."
NO! THAT'S THE LIE THEY'VE FED US FOREVER. THEY KILL OUR FAMILIES, THEN WANT US TO GIVE UP HOPE, BECAUSE WE WILL SEE THEM IN ANOTHER PLACE
IT'S ALL A LIE!
YES.
"THEN LISTEN TO ME AND DO EXACTLY AS I SAY, BECAUSE THE LONGER I'M AWAY FROM MY BODY, THE HARDER THIS WILL BECOME.
"BUT YOUR FAMILY, DO YOU EVER THINK OF REUNITING WITH...
AL.
"...WANDA!!?"
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? WHO'S WANDA?

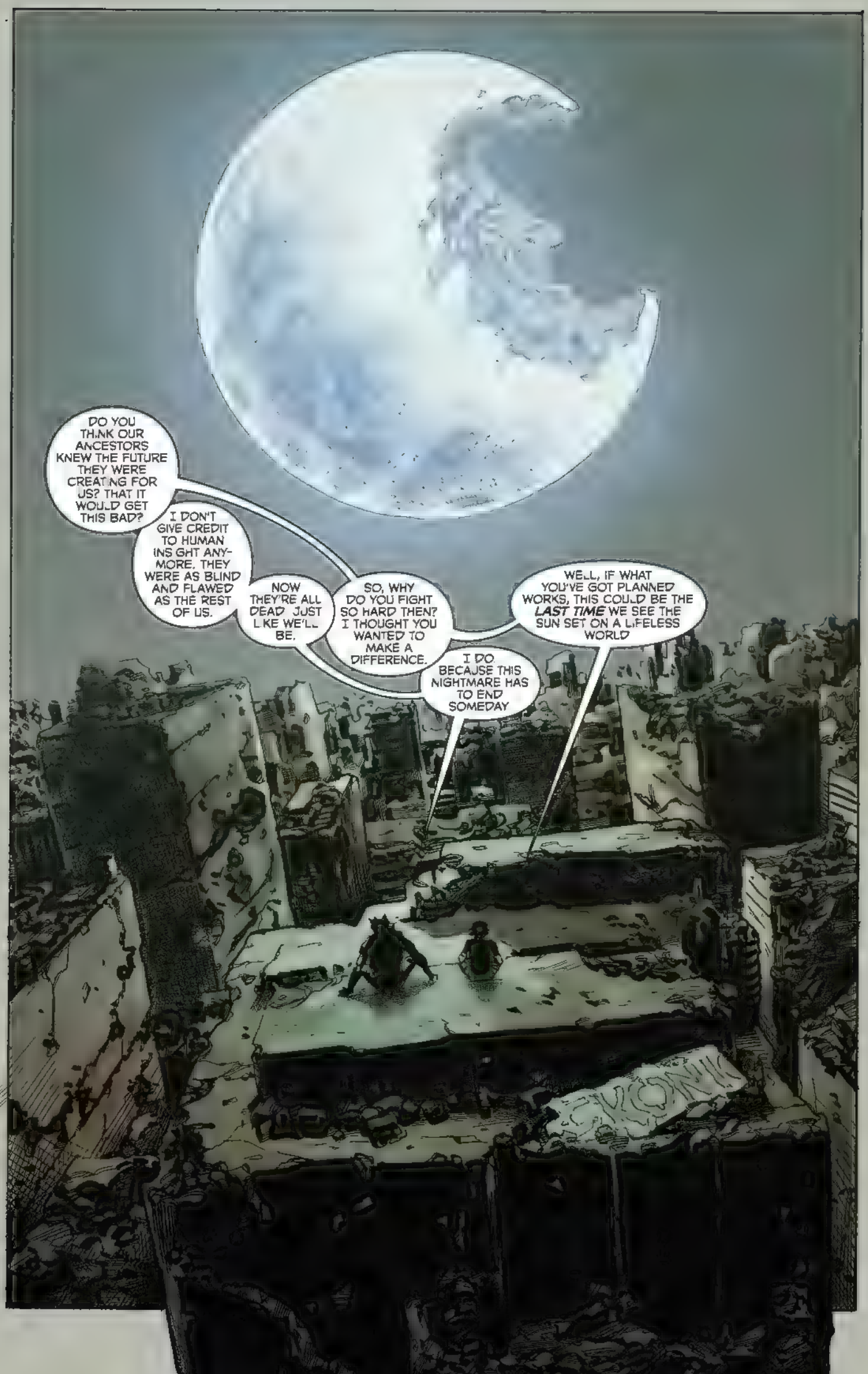
I... DON'T KNOW. JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES AND FIND ME.
WHEREVER I'M AT, FIND ME!
SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT SHE'S DOING. ALL CLAUDIAZ DOES IS THINK OF THE SAME EMOTION FLOWING THROUGH RAPTOR AT THIS MOMENT.
BAM
THE EMOTION CALLED LOVE.

WITH HER CONNECTION MADE, IT PULLS RAPTOR FROM HIS OWN DARK ETHER BACK INTO THE PRESENCE, THOUGH HE SILENTLY WONDERS WHO WANDA IS--AND ALTHOUGH, SOMETHING SEEMS VAGUELY FAMILIAR OF A BEING CALLED SPAWN.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I THINK SO. HOW ABOUT YOU?
I'M GOOD, BUT SOMETHING STILL ISN'T RIGHT. SOMETHING STILL FEELS...OFF. BUT THANK YOU FOR FINDING ME AND WHATEVER YOU DID, WHATEVER YOU'VE UNLOCKED...IT'S FREED SOMETHING INSIDE ME
AND, AS I HOLD THE CROWN TO THE 'HEART OF HEAVEN,' THERE'S A CHANCE WE CAN ACTUALLY WIN THIS WAR.
THEY BOTH LET THAT THOUGHT SINK IN. IS IT POSSIBLE THEY NOW HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO TRULY TAKE ON ALL THEIR RUTHLESS ENEMIES?

I DON'T GET IT. WE'VE WON, AT LEAST FOR NOW, WHY ARE YOU LOOK NG AT ME LIKE THAT?
IT'S NOT YOJ. I JUST... WHEN THE ANGEL CONSUMED ME, THERE WAS A MOMENT WHERE I STOPPED FIGHT.NG -- WHERE I GAVE UP AND EMBRACED WHAT WAS GO!NG TO HAPPEN TO ME
THAT CAN'T BE. YOJ'RE NOT REMEMBER.NG R.GHT.
I AM. THAT'S WHEN THE INVASIVE MEMORIES SWALLOWED ME.
YOU'RE TA..K NG CRAZY OJR POWERS -- OUR BOND, THAT'S NOT HOW .T WORKS.
BUT I HAVE TO ASK--YOU CA..ED OUT A NAME. .WANDA. WHO .S SHE?

ELSEWHERE, INSIDE AN UNKNOWN PRISON COMPLEX.
HE TOOK THE BAIT. FELL FOR IT LIKE I KNEW HE WOULD
AND NOW... heeheehee... NOW HE THINKS HE THINKS HE'S STRONGER.
THIS IS GOING TO BE EASIER THAN I THOUGHT
RAPTOR'S EGO HAS ALWAYS BEEN WHERE HE'S MOST VULNERABLE
AND SOON, OUR TIME WILL COME WHEN THE WRONGS WILL BE RIGHTED, AND THOSE THAT THEY SO CASUALLY DISMISSED AS BEING "TOO WEAK" WILL ONCE AGAIN SIT UPON THE THRONE
AND IT'LL BE THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS "HEROES" THAT WILL BE PUNISHED FOR THEIR CRIMES.
AND ALL WILL BE BACK AS IT SHOULD BE. EVERYTHING IN ITS RIGHT PLACE. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, BILLY?

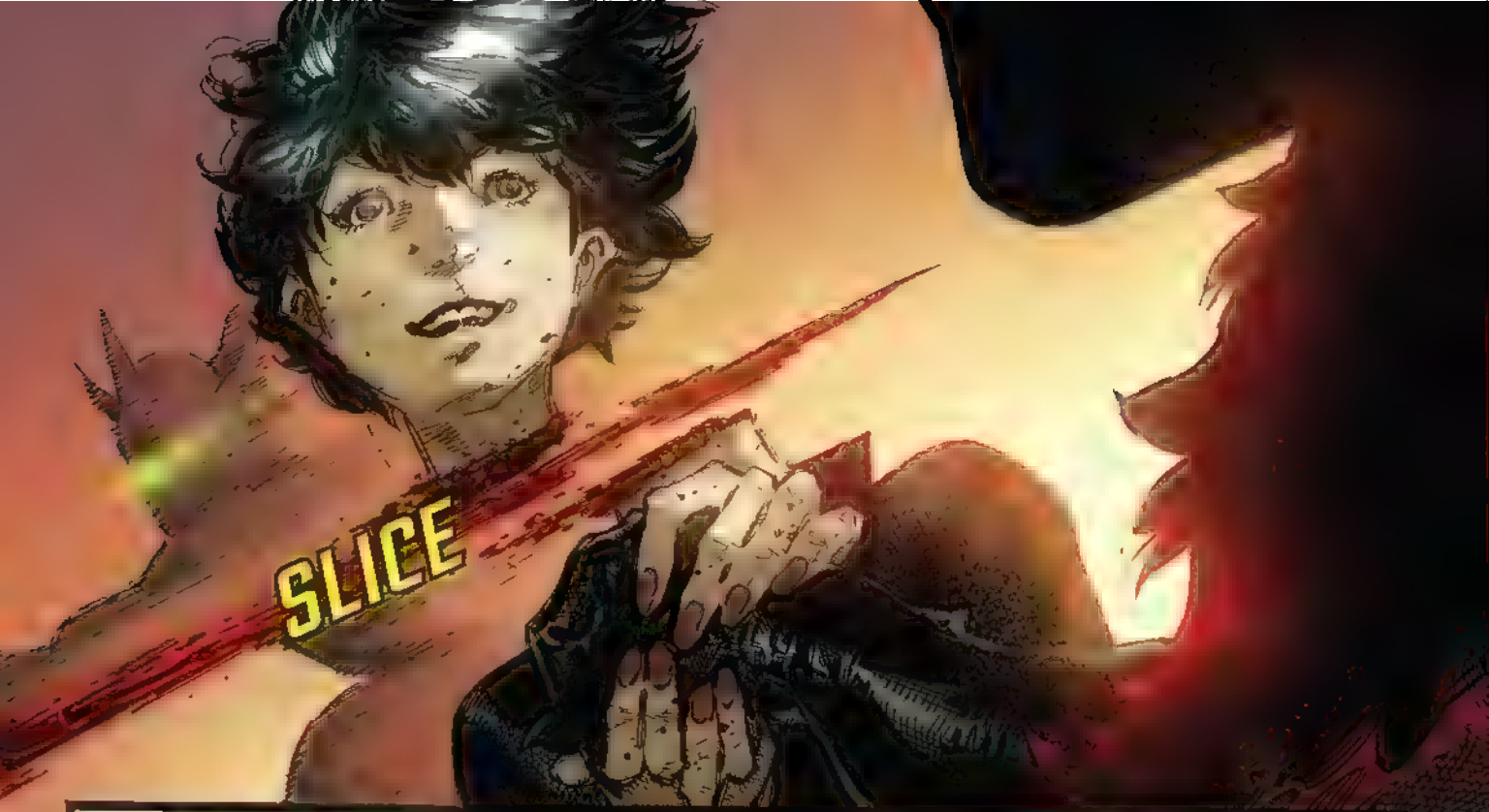
THAT'S RIGHT
I'M GOING TO MAKE THEM SCREAM.
AND SCREAM
AND SCREAM.
THEN WHAT WILL YOU DO?
YES!

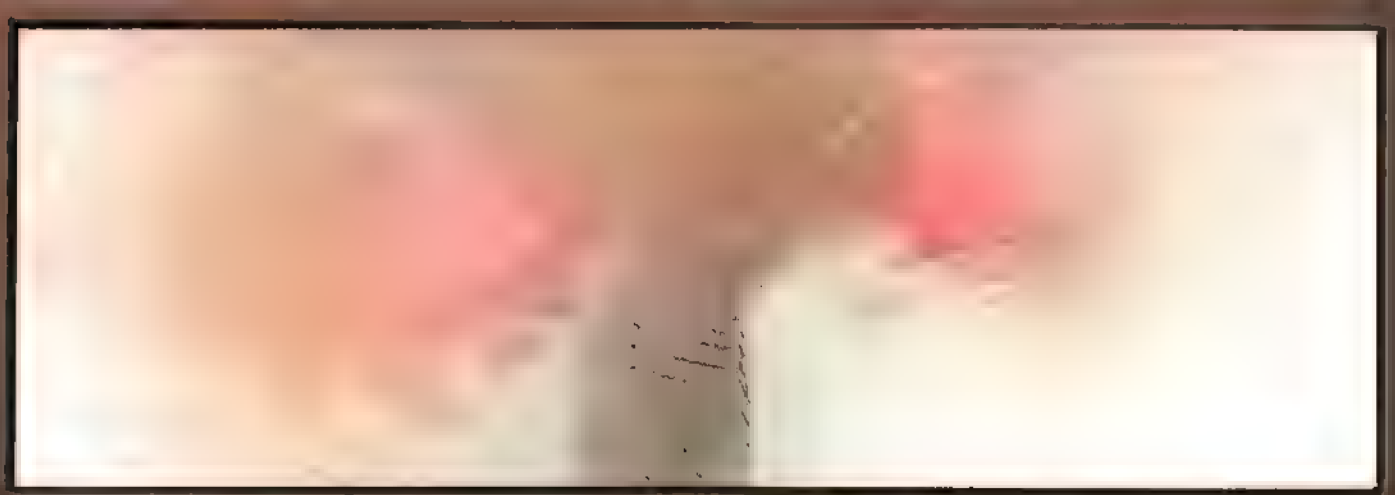

DO YOU THINK OUR ANCESTORS KNEW THE FUTURE THEY WERE CREATING FOR US? THAT IT WOULD GET THIS BAD?
I DON'T GIVE CREDIT TO HUMAN INSIGHT ANYMORE. THEY WERE AS BLIND AND FLAWED AS THE REST OF US.
NOW THEY'RE ALL DEAD JUST LIKE WE'LL BE.
SO, WHY DO YOU FIGHT SO HARD THEN? I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
I DO BECAUSE THIS NIGHTMARE HAS TO END SOMEDAY
WELL, IF WHAT YOU'VE GOT PLANNED WORKS, THIS COULD BE THE *LAST TIME* WE SEE THE SUN SET ON A LIFELESS WORLD

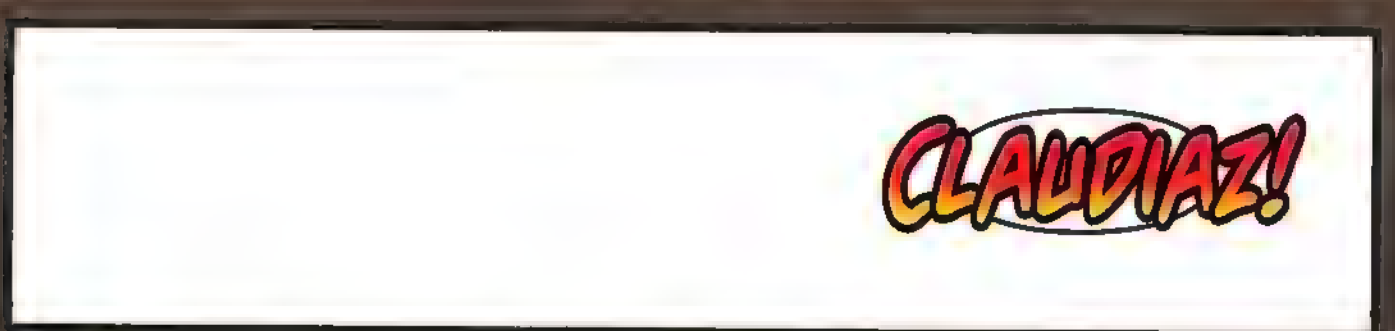
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT. IT WOULD BE NICE TO BE 'NORMAL' AGAIN
I BARELY REMEMBER WHAT THAT'S LIKE, IT'S BEEN SO LONG. THE SOUNDS PEOPLE USED TO MAKE I MISS IT SO MUCH.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE LAST TIME I SMILED
YOU'RE FINE
YOU SAY THAT, BUT IT'S NOT TRUE. NEITHER OF US ARE OKAY AND I'M GETTING EXHAUSTED TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF OTHERWISE.

IF OUR PLAN SUCCEEDS...
...WHAT HAPPENS NEXT *HAS* TO BE BETTER. NO MORE ANGELIC HARVESTS.
NO MORE SEVERING MINDS FROM THEIR BODIES, OR HEADLESS SERAPHIM STALKING THE RUINS.
NO MORE CANNIBALISTIC DEMON FEASTS
CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT THAT WOULD BE LIKE?
TO NOT FEEL SAD
TO NOT BE ALONE.
CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT THAT WOULD BE LIKE?
IT WOULD BE .. BEAUTIFUL

THEY SIT QUIETLY, EACH ATTEMPTING TO PROCESS WHAT TOMORROW MAY LOOK LIKE IF THE LEGENDS OF 'THE HEART OF HEAVENS' ARE TRUE... BECAUSE IF THEY ARE, THEN THE POWER THEY STOLE FROM THEIR SLAIN ENEMY WILL EXPOSE AN EVEN GREATER EVIL.
I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW SORRY I AM.
FOR WHAT?
FOR NOT TRUSTING YOU ENOUGH. I CALLED OUT TO THE 'DARKNESS' BECAUSE I WAS SCARED. SCARED I WAS GOING TO LOSE YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY..
I KNOW, BUT I WANT TO. I NEED YOU TO HEAR THIS. I KNOW YOU WANTED TO SAVE EVERYONE FROM WHAT HAPPENED BUT YOU'RE JUST ONE MAN.
BUT YOU SAVED ME, AND I'VE BEEN THANKFUL FOR THAT EVER SINCE. SO, WHATEVER HAPPENS TOMORROW, YOU'LL STILL BE A GREAT MAN.
AND YOU ALWAYS HAVE BEEN. JUST PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL...


SLICE




CLAUDIAZ!

THEIR VOICES PROVIDED SPAWN A TARGET TO FOCUS ON... GUIDING HIM BACK INTO THE LIGHT.
THRASHING ABOUT BLINDLY WHEN HE EMERGED FROM THE DARK, HE'D ACCIDENTALLY KILLED THE LAST FEMALE LEFT ON THIS EARTH.
BUT SPAWN SAW HER, NOT AS A HERO, BUT AS AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT. NOW RAPTOR HAS DRAWN SPAWN'S FULL ATTENTION.
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR MESSING WITH...

MY HEAD!
AT LAST, I'M FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE MONSTER WHO KILLED OUR FUTURE.
AND IF THERE'S ANY POSSIBILITY OF GETTING IT BACK THE ONLY WAY TO TRIGGER THAT IS THROUGH YOUR DEATH!
Next: ANSWERS and ULTIMATUMS

SPAWNING GROUND

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A BEAUTIFUL NIGHTMARE, THE FUTURE AND SPAWN...

As you've just witnessed, the future of SPAWN is filled with nightmares and questions, all born of Al Simmon's action in SPAWN #300 and #301.

This issue, Part 1 of the two part "Prophecy of Death" story, may seem like a detour--a sudden and violent turn in an unexpected direction. That is intentional! Philip and Todd wanted readers to be almost as confused/disoriented as Al by the strange introduction to Raptor, Claudiaz, the Heart of Heavens and the ruins of terrible future in which they exist.

Philip, who also plotted this story with Todd, is the perfect artist to guide Spawn through this next trial, and set the stage for not only the incredible mysteries of Raptor's future and quest for vengeance, but to also help set the stage for what comes next...

The gathering of Spawn's allies--She-Spawn, Reaper, Marc, and others! The spread of Hellspawned energies across the globe! The unleashing of Medieval Spawn and the consequences of his death at the hands of Al Simmons! The breakneck pace since issue #301 is leading to something.

If #300 and #301 were the on-ramp to the future of SPAWN. And Jason Shawn Alexander's final arc, "Hell Hunt," was Spawn and crew picking up speed. Then Philip's arc, which will run through SPAWN #308, is where we put the pedal to the metal...

Then, in SPAWN #309, fan-favorite artist, Ken Lashley (X-Men, Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man], takes over as artist for a four-issue arc that will bring all of the pieces together in an epic showdown weaving all of the elements presented over the last year to solidify the foundation for SPAWN's future.

New heroes and allies!

New (and old) villains!

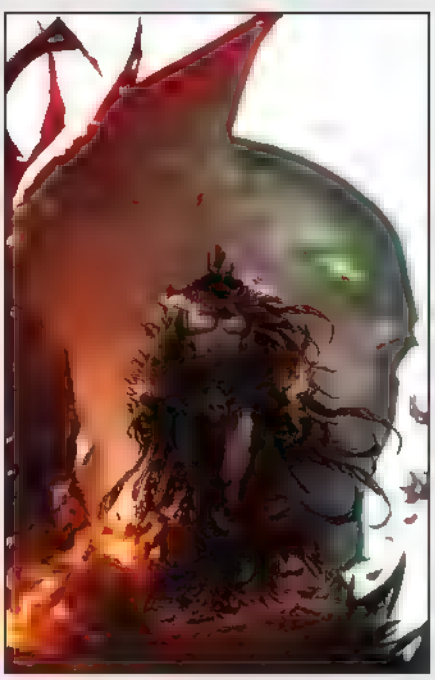
New limits and dangers to Al's erratic powers!

And an all-new, global status quo, born in the alleys of Rat City and spread across the planet as the scale of the endless war between Heaven, Hell, humanity and nature enters a new era!

Excited for everyone to see what Todd and Philip and Ken are cooking up! For now, enjoy the issue and prepare yourself for all the things to come.

'Til next month... Give 'em Hell!

-Jon



NEXT ISSUE

PROPHECY OF DEATH, Part 2
Who is Raptor? And who is responsible for the hellish future he calls home?

SPAWN
TODD MCFARLANE •
JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER
DARK HORROR
IN STORES NOW!

TODD MCFARLANE ▪ JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER

ENEMY OF THE STATE

SPAWN®

COLLECTING ISSUES #284-290

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